Garden Writers

Notice how facts stay focused on a topic.

2.W "The student will write in a variety of forms for diverse audiences and purposes, linked to grade two content and texts. Modes and Purposes for Writing Write narratives that recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events and..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence in each paragraph that tells the paragraph's main idea. This shows how an informational writer keeps each part focused.

A Garden for Butterflies

1. A school garden can be a helpful place for butterflies. Butterflies drink nectar from many flowers. They also need leaves where caterpillars can eat and grow. A garden with different plants gives butterflies food and shelter.

2. Gardeners can choose plants that give butterflies what they need. First, they can plant bright flowers in sunny spots. Zinnias and coneflowers have nectar that butterflies sip. Next, they can add milkweed, which monarch caterpillars eat.

3. A butterfly garden also helps people learn outdoors. Students can watch insects visit flowers and notice changes over time. By planting and caring for a garden, a school can make a safe place for butterflies and a living place to study.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is the topic of this piece?

2. Write two facts the writer uses to explain how a garden helps butterflies.

3. What does the writer want readers to understand by the end of the piece? Write one sentence.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence informational paragraph for your classmates about how a bird feeder can help birds. Begin with a clear topic sentence, include two facts or examples, and end with a concluding sentence.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 2 · 2.W

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence in each paragraph that tells the paragraph's main idea. This shows how an informational writer keeps each part focused. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the topic of this piece?	**A school butterfly garden and how it helps butterflies.**
2	Write two facts the writer uses to explain how a garden helps butterflies.	**Butterflies drink nectar from flowers. Monarch caterpillars eat milkweed leaves.**
3	What does the writer want readers to understand by the end of the piece? Write one sentence.	**A school garden can help butterflies and give students a place to learn outdoors.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A bird feeder can help birds find food in winter. Birds can eat seeds from the feeder when snow covers many plants. A bowl of clean water nearby gives birds a drink. A feeder can make our yard a useful place for birds.

Accept answers that match details in the passage, even when students use their own words. For the paragraph, look for a focused topic sentence, two relevant facts or examples, and a concluding sentence.